

MB Survey Tips

Creating an accurate map of your property is a simple process...

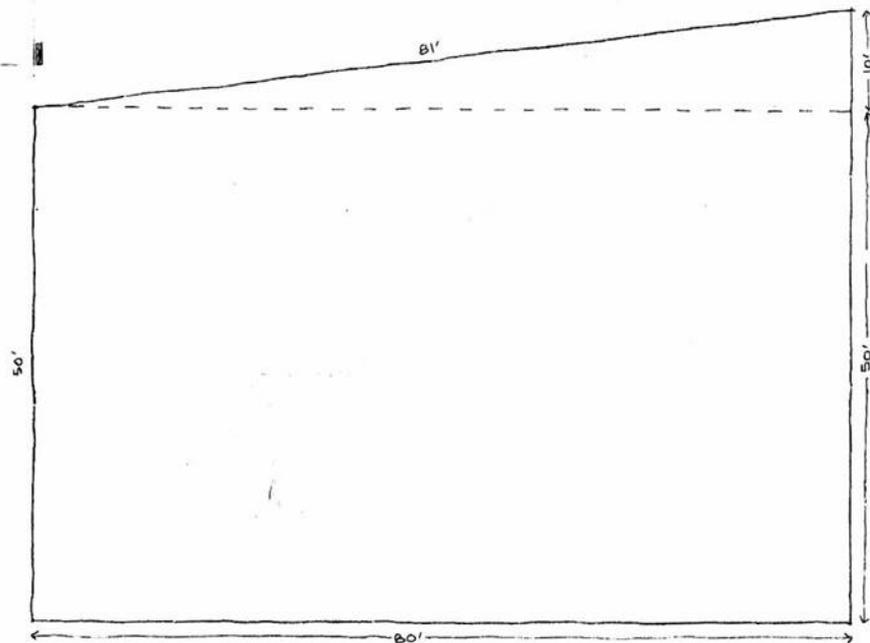
you'll learn new things about your garden's merits and problems as you develop this essential background piece.

When reading the following instructions, keep in mind that your Site Map may be drawn freehand and need not be to scale. The dimensions, however, must be written accurately and legibly, so that MODERNBACKYARD can draw a base plan to scale using the information you provide.

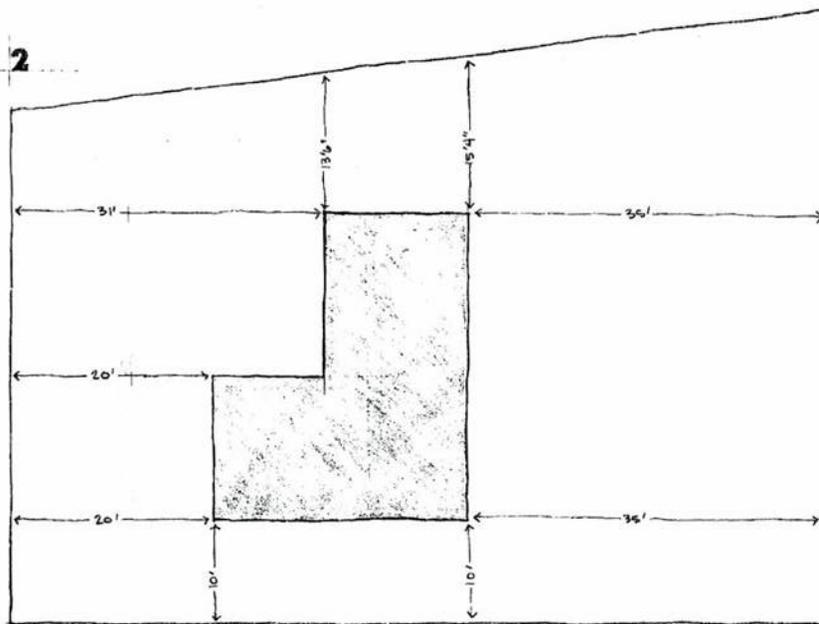
Please reference **MB Survey Tips - Diagrams** as you follow the steps below. You may wish to draw a separate sketch for each step, as illustrated, in order to avoid crowding too much information onto one page.

1. Begin by locating the 'plat' of your lot, which normally is part of your home purchase records. The plat will illustrate the overall shape and dimensions of your property. If you don't have a plat, measure your property lines as accurately as possible.
2. Locate your house within the property. Start at the front of the house, and measure from each corner straight out to the front property line. Repeat this step for each side of your house.
3. Draw the outline of your house. Include the location of all windows whose views or relationship to the garden may be significant, as well as all doors to the exterior. Note the general location of all interior rooms of the house that have a relationship with the garden.
4. To complete your Site Map, measure the locations of significant features and plants in your garden, particularly items you want to remain in place. Measure all features using a baseline off of the house, if possible. The following are suggested items to locate, as applicable:
 - The compass directions North, South, East, and West
 - Secondary buildings (shed, garage, etc....)
 - Utility boxes and utility lines, etc....
 - Walls, fences, gates, arbors, etc....
 - Steps (measure each riser to determine change in elevation from top to bottom)
 - Paved areas (driveway, parking areas, paths, walkways, etc....)
 - Significant vegetation, particularly trees, shrubs, or beds you wish to incorporate into the new design
 - Bodies of water, including any low, wet areas
 - Steeply sloping land, with estimate of change in elevation from top to bottom
 - Soil type (for example clay, sandy, etc....)
 - Views
 - Note the light patterns in each area of property, for example: sunny, shady, a.m. sun, part shade, etc....
 - Prevailing wind and corresponding season
5. Contact your local design, planning, development, or construction department to verify any landscape regulations which may affect changes to your property. Possible issues are setbacks, maximum heights for walls/fencing, maximum amounts of lot coverage/permeable surface area, etc....
6. Photograph your house and garden – be thorough! Take several panoramic shots (a series of shots is fine), standing far enough away to capture the entire front of the house and garden, the entire back of the house and garden, and any other significant areas. Take shots including your neighbors' houses/yards and any other context shots you feel may be useful. Take detail pictures of areas you particularly like or particularly dislike. If there's a view you want enhanced, opened up, or, conversely, screened...take a photo of the existing view while sitting/standing at the viewpoint.

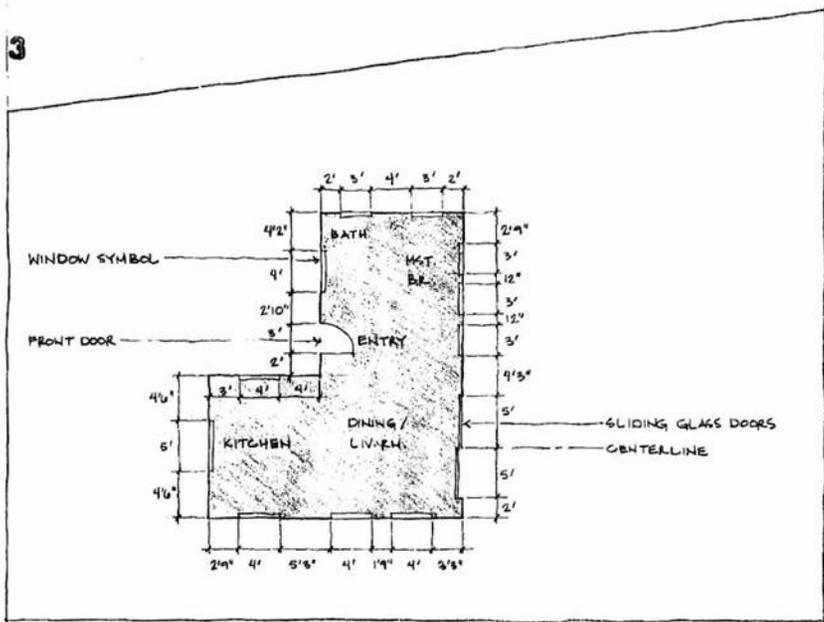
MB Survey Tips: Diagrams



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